

**BOLTON BOARD OF FINANCE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021– 7:15 p.m.  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM WEBSITE PLATFORM  
Minutes**

**Board of Finance Members Present:** Chairman Emily Bradley, Vice-Chair Robert Munroe, Charles Danna Jr., Kristen Gourley, and Robert DePietro and Richard Tuthill (joined meeting at 7:25 p.m.)

**Board of Finance Members Absent:** Ross Lally

**Board of Selectmen Present:** First Selectman Sandra Pierog and Selectman Robert DePietro

**Board of Education Members Present:** Superintendent Kristin Heckt

**Staff Present:** Interim Town Administrator Jim Rupert and Board Clerk Linda McDonald

1. Call to Order: E. Bradley called the special meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.
2. Public Participation: Superintendent Heckt thanked the BOE for their support and thoughtful deliberations during the budget process. She said this has been a year like no other and we have faced a lot of challenges. The BOE has been extremely supportive all along the way and helped us be successful this year. Superintendent Heckt offered a note of appreciation to the BOF for the thoughtful deliberations and analysis of information, keeping in mind what the town is facing and what the town is not sure it is facing next year. She added the town would not have been able to survive without First Selectman Pierog and her team and appreciates all their hard work, support and partnership.
3. Ongoing Business
- 3.a Discussion on FY 2021-2022 Revenues and Expenditures:

E. Bradley reviewed revised numbers from this fiscal year and noted the Chief Financial Officer Jill Collins has made upward revenue revisions in property tax, building department fees, sale of a town truck and Town Clerk fees. She said the BOE, at their April 29, 2021 meeting, voted to commit an additional \$200,000 from this year's budget to the FY 2022 budget. The BOS, at their May 4, 2021 meeting, committed an additional \$125,000 toward next year's budget.

S. Pierog reported after the close of the May 4, 2021 BOS meeting, she was notified that the fire department's tanker truck, ET 334, had experienced a major breakdown. There is no repair estimate yet, but she is expecting a number approaching at least \$50,000. The real number would be dependent on how catastrophic the damage is to the truck, so it could be much more. S. Pierog said, because of this emergency repair pending, the additional amount the BOS could commit to next year's budget is less than half of the original \$125,000, probably closer to \$50,000.

E. Bradley said new mil rate, including the total givebacks from the BOS and BOE would have been 40.64. With only the BOE givebacks, not including the new \$125,000 from the BOS, the mil rate would be 40.92, a 5.3% increase.

J. Rupert said a repair estimate on the fire tanker should be available early next week and the Town might have to rent a replacement truck while repairs are made. He noted the BOS will have to come up with a solution to the issue and make a decision.

S. Pierog said she hopes to have a firm number of additional giveback before the BOF sets the mil rate.

R. DePietro said another alternative would be to take the funds needed for the repair from rainy day fund. S. Pierog responded this would add time to the process and she would prefer not to use the rainy-day fund.

E. Bradley said safest route would be not to include any of the additional BOS giveback in the calculations of the mil rate.

K. Gourley commented the board needs to go with what they know and she would not want the bond rating to be negatively affected by using the rainy-day fund.

E. Bradley reported there is still no clear picture on health insurance premium costs.

S. Pierog said the BOS can postpone the budget process under the Governor's Executive Order 10E if the BOF finds that to be prudent. The decision to postpone the budget process would have to be made by May 20, 2021 and the Town would have to have the first referendum before June 30, 2021. Discussion followed on this scenario.

S. Pierog said, if the BOF requests a postponement of the budget process, the BOS could hold a special meeting on Monday at 6:00 p.m. to vote.

Superintendent Heckt said there are some changes with special education budget that may cut into any savings from health insurance on the BOE side.

R. Tuthill MOVED that the Board of Finance request the Board of Selectmen postpone the budget process to the earliest appropriate date after open enrollment for health insurance closes. R. Munroe SECONDED. Discussion followed. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:0.

3.b Consider and Possibly Act on FY 2021 Revised Revenues: No action.

3.c Consider and Possibly Act on FY 2022 Proposed Budget Revenues: No action.

3.d Consider and Possibly Act on Ballot Question: No action.

4. Adjournment: E. Bradley adjourned the special meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Next Meetings:

May 10, 2021 - Special Meeting – 7:15 p.m.

May 20, 2021 – Regular Meeting - 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Linda H. McDonald, Board Clerk

*Linda H. McDonald.*